AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A signaling method for use in setting up internet protocol network calls~~, wherein said internet protocol network comprises an application server for providing call feature processing~~, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an application server <u>in an internet protocol network</u> call information whereby said application server is inserted into a signaling path for said call<u>, the application server for providing call feature processing</u>;

providing call feature processing including determining a primary and alternate routing number for said call;

determining, at said application server, whether said application server is required in the signaling path to complete call setup for said call; and

if said application server is not required in the signaling path to complete said call setup, said application server removing itself from the signaling path<u>;</u>

<u>wherein said step of providing said call feature processing further comprises the step of sending an SIP INVITE message to a call control element in order to invoke service of another network server, said SIP INVITE message containing a URL of a script identified by the application server; and</u>

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<u>wherein said step of said application server removing itself from the call signaling path further comprises the steps of sending to said call control element a) an SIP redirect message or SIP REFER message, and b) an SIP cancel to cancel said INVITE message</u>.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of said application server removing itself from the call signaling path further comprises the step of:

transmitting an SIP REDIRECT message to a call control element.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of said application server removing itself from the call signaling path further comprises the step of:

transmitting an SIP REFER message to a call control element.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, if said determining step determines that said application server is required in said signaling path to complete call setup, said method further comprising the steps of:

said application server providing feature processing for said call; and

said application server thereafter determining that it is not required in said signaling path to complete call setup and removing itself from the call signaling path.

5.   (Canceled)

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6.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein said another network server is a media server and wherein said invoked service is collection of caller input.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of removing occurs prior to completion of call setup.

8.   (Currently Amended) A signaling method for use in setting up internet protocol network calls~~, wherein said internet protocol network comprises an application server for providing call feature processing~~, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at an application server in an internet protocol network a request for call feature processing for a call whereby said request inserts said application server in a signaling path for call setup, the application server for providing call feature processing;

~~said application server~~ providing by said application server said call feature processing including determining a primary and alternate routing number for said call; and

~~said application server~~ removing by said application server itself from said signaling path upon a determination that it is no longer required in said signaling path for call setup;

wherein said step of providing by said application server said call feature processing further comprises the step of sending an SIP INVITE message to a call control element in order to invoke service of another network server, said SIP INVITE message containing a URL of a script identified by the application server; and

wherein said step of said application server removing itself from the call signaling path further comprises the steps of sending to said call control element a) an SIP redirect message or SIP REFER message, and b) an SIP cancel to cancel said INVITE message.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said step of removing occurs prior to completion of call setup.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 8 wherein said step of removing occurs immediately subsequent to said determining step.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said step of providing said call feature processing further comprises the steps of:

sending said primary routing number to a network element; and

receiving an indication for the alternate routing number.

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13.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of removing occurs immediately subsequent to said step of determining said alternate routing number.

14.   (Currently Amended) A network node for providing call feature processing ~~during setup of internet protocol network calls~~, said network node comprising of:

    means for receiving call information;

    means for providing call feature processing <u>during setup of internet protocol network calls, the call feature processing</u> including determining a primary and alternate routing number for said call;

    means for determining whether said network node is required in a signaling path to complete call setup for said call; and

    means for said network node removing itself from the signaling path if is not required in the signaling path to complete said call setup<u>;</u>

    <u>wherein said means for providing said call feature processing further comprises means for sending an SIP INVITE message to a call control element in order to invoke service of a network server, said SIP INVITE message containing a URL of a script identified by an application server; and</u>

    <u>wherein said means for said network node removing itself from the call signaling path further comprises the steps of sending to said call control</u>

element a) an SIP redirect message or SIP REFER message, and b) an SIP

cancel to cancel said INVITE message.

15.   (Original) The network node of claim 14 wherein said means for

removing further comprises:

    means for transmitting an SIP redirect message to a call control element.

16.   (Original) The network node of claim 14 wherein means for removing

further comprises:

    means for transmitting an SIP REFER message to a call control element.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein:

    the call control element sends another SIP INVITE message to the other

network server; and

    the other network server determines the IP address of the alternate

routing number.